

6 December 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 20 November 1957

PRESENT: Mr. Allen, Mr. Dearborn, Mr. Dulles, Dr. FitzGerald, Mr. Gray, Mr. Herter, Mr. Scribner, Mr. Sprague, Mr. Stassen, Admiral Strauss, Dr. Alan T. Waterman, Director, National Science Foundation, Mr. Staats

1. Assistance for Nagasaki and Hiroshima Medical Schools

The possibility of giving financial assistance for the construction of two 50-bed medical facilities in Nagasaki and Hiroshima, to concentrate on radiation patients, was discussed. This matter was considered to have particular pertinence in the light of a report that the USSR had made a tentative offer to the Japanese government of similar assistance. Although the obvious psychological implications of the alleged Russian offer were recognized, Admiral Strauss stated that he believed it would be unwise to proceed with a US offer purely as a counter to the Russian one. It was finally agreed that ICA would look into the desirability and feasibility of such a program.

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3. Checklist of Possible Technological or Defense Actions

a. The list of possible actions which the US might take in this field was covered once more. Admiral Strauss raised a question on nuclear aircraft. He pointed out that a slow (i. e. sub-sonic) airplane could be built in about two years; on the other hand a super-sonic machine would take five to six years to produce. The question

posed was whether such an airplane should be pushed to completion and if so, which of the two alternatives would be the better. After some discussion Admiral Strauss agreed to obtain more specific information for consideration at a future meeting.

b. Dr. Waterman stated that the papers which the National Science Foundation is to prepare on three of the items would be far more meaningful if they were backed up with intelligence as to what the Soviets have accomplished in these respective fields. The items in question are desalination, drilling to obtain matter from beneath the earth's crust and the exploitation of solar energy. Mr. Dulles agreed to supply Dr. Waterman with intelligence on these subjects.

3. Nuclear Tests

Admiral Strauss gave the group details of the underground nuclear test which the US recently conducted, with an explanation of certain phenomena which had resulted therefrom. He also stated that there is a possibility that the Soviets recently made a similar test in Novaya Zemlya.

ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

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